

## [Mr. Sorenson]

Mr. Sorenson

Marshall, Wis.

Mrs. Moran

April 3, 1936

### Personal History

Mr. Sorenson, owner of the Marshall Furniture Store, is one of Marshall's most prominent citizens. He has lived in the village or vicinity all of his life. (Has collected many arrow heads on the banks of the Maunasha Creek and reports that there is an Indian burial mound near the village.)

Marshall, a village of about 500 people has four churches, Catholic, German Lutheran, English Lutheran, and Methodist.

Its high school, separate from the garde school, has a very interesting history. It is one of the first free high schools in the state. Some say it is the first but others credit it with being one of the first four. It drew students from all over the state when it first started as a township free high school in 18889 1889. The building itself however was built shortly after the civil war.

In the early days of its existence, the principal lived in the building, and the third floor provided living quarters for several of the students. At the time the Norwegians owned, it, it was known as an Academy and Prof. [Rasmus?] Anderson was interested in it. This buliting was later abandoned by the Norwegians who moved to Decorah, Iowa, starting

## Library of Congress

the Lutheran College now in existence there. About 1889 the township voted to establish a free high school and purchased the building from its owners.

2

Two outstanding men came from this locality, namely Bishop Samuel Fallows, who resided in Chicago and Dr. Huntington, who was connected with the University of Chicago.

The Main St. of Marshall, unusually wide has a natural street cleaning system of its own. It is laid out on a gradual slope or grade, so when it rains, nature washes the street completely and thoroughly, in her own way. 2

The village has already purchased land for a park on the banks of the Maunasha Creek, which runs through the village. They hope soon to put it in shape and properly equip it for a village park.

Marshall has a Community or Civic Chorus, a village [ban?], known as the Marshall Cornet Band an American Legion Post, and Ladies Auxiliary. The village is very musical more so than the majority of communities its size.

Mr. Sorenson who is also an undertaker, as well as a furniture dealer, told me some burial customs of the Jewish people. The handles of the caskets are removed before burial as metal contaminates the body and as the handles are of metal, they must be eliminated. The undertaker is not allowed to touch the body in preparation for burial. This is done by one of their own people, especially fitted for the task, who is called immediately. After death and anoints the body with oils, preparing it for burial. The undertaker does not touch it. He merely takes charge of disposition of the casket at the cemetery etc. The burials are always before sunset of the day the person passed away. The sun never sets on the departed Jew. [1 custom 2 customs 3 customs